



COMMUTER ALERT

15-058 **Updated**

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District: 8 – Riverside/San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HELP CALTRANS KEEP CALIFORNIA BEAUTIFUL!

SAN BERNARDINO – Every year Caltrans celebrates Earth Day by encouraging motorists to keep California clean and beautiful. The “Don’t Trash California” campaign is in place to remind motorists and communities along state highways to pitch in and stash their trash. Caltrans District 8 has spent over \$5.9 million to date in the 2014/2015 fiscal year cleaning up Inland Empire state highways.

Statewide last year Caltrans spent \$63 million and removed 193,573 cubic yards of litter, well over 10,000 garbage trucks (51 miles long, end-to-end). If the state highways could remain litter free, these funds could be spent to maintain our highway system; for example, pothole repair or roadside rest area improvements.

Caltrans District 8 maintains over 7,200 highway lane miles throughout a twenty-eight thousand, square-mile district that encompasses Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Caltrans utilizes a variety of programs to remove litter from the highway system: Adopt-a-Highway, work release programs, one day “clean ups” by groups and local agencies under permit, and our own Caltrans’ maintenance crews.

Caltrans District 8 Deputy District Director of Maintenance, Steve Pusey states, “Through teamwork and commitment, Caltrans will always continue to work towards improving the environment by removing litter and debris from the state highways. However, only by collaboration and strategic partnerships with our local partners, civic minded Adopt-A-Highway Program volunteers, and the motoring public’s cooperation, can the Caltrans Maintenance staff be successful in providing our customers with a pristine and “trash free” transportation facility, at all times.”

You can make a difference today! Join our Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) Program to maintain sections of roadway within your community. In return, a freeway sign recognizing your contribution is installed along the roadside, building community pride and adding to the aesthetics of the region. In addition, once you adopt, Caltrans provides you with the supplies and safety training necessary to complete the task. Some of the benefits are: preventing potential pollutants from entering our waterways, saving taxpayers millions of dollars and beautifying the area you live in. You may also set up one day clean ups on state highways through your community under the AAH Program and Caltrans will supply you with the necessary materials.

Littering is a crime with a fine of up to \$1,000. It is also a hazard to motorists and can be deadly. Keep your litter inside your vehicle, don’t throw cigarette butts out the window, and secure all loads on your vehicle. Caltrans reminds parents to set a good example for your children and to stash your trash. Make a difference and show you care. Don’t Trash California!

For more information and to see how you can join, go to <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/adopt/>.

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